

Programme and Addresses

... at ...

Laying of Corner Stone.



1899





LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS.



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

# Free Public Library,

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

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## CEREMONIES

ATTENDING THE

## CORNER STONE LAYING

Of the New Building.

Thursday, January Twenty-sixth,

1899.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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HON. JAMES M. SEYMOUR,  
*Mayor of Newark.*

CHARLES B. GILBERT,  
*Supt. of Public Schools.*

} *Ex-officio.*

WILLIAM JOHNSON,	- - - -	Term expires, 1903
JAMES TAAFFE,	- - - -	Term expires, 1902
EDWARD H. DURYEE,	- - - -	Term expires, 1901
JAMES E. HOWELL,	- - - -	Term expires, 1900
RICHARD C. JENKINSON,	- - - -	Term expires, 1899

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<i>President of the Board,</i>	HON. JAMES M. SEYMOUR,	Mayor
<i>Treasurer of the Board,</i>	- - -	EDWARD H. DURYEE
<i>Secretary of the Board,</i>	- - -	FRANK P. HILL, Librarian

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## NEW BUILDING COMMITTEE.

MESSRS. DURYEE, HOWELL, JENKINSON and TAAFFE.

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# ORDER OF EXERCISES.

## AFTERNOON.

2.30 O'CLOCK. NEW BUILDING.

**Introductory Remarks,**

MR. EDWARD H. DURYEE,  
*Chairman of the Building Committee.*

**Prayer,**

REVEREND LOUIS SHREVE OSBORNE.

**Reading of the list of articles deposited in the Box,**

MR. R. C. JENKINSON.  
*Chairman of the Finance Committee.*

**Presentation of Trowel,**

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON,  
*Chairman of the Reading Room Committee.*

**Acceptance of the Trowel, and laying of the corner stone,**

HON. JAMES M. SEYMOUR,  
*President of the Board of Trustees.*

**Benediction,**

REVEREND DANIEL HALLERON.

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## EVENING.

8.30 O'CLOCK. LIBRARY BUILDING, WEST PARK ST.

**Introductory Remarks,**

HON. JAMES M. SEYMOUR.  
*President of the Board of Trustees.*

**Address, "Books and Reading,"**

RT. REV. MONSIGNOR DOANE.

**Address, "The Public and the Library,"**

MR. WILLIAM T. HUNT.

**Address, "The Public Library,"**

HON. CORTLANDT PARKER.

P 3304







## CEREMONIES

### Attending the Laying of the Corner Stone of the new Free Public Library Building.

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The corner stone of the new building of the Free Public Library, located at the head of Washington Park, was laid by the Board of Trustees Thursday, January 26th., in the presence of a large gathering. The weather was perfect in every respect, the day resembling one in the middle of June more than one in the last of January.

At 2:30 o'clock, MR. JAMES E. HOWELL, in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Building Committee, MR. EDWARD H. DURYEE, opened the exercises as follows:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*:—We have assembled here to perform the ceremony of laying the corner stone of a new building which when completed will be the home of the Free Public Library, and in opening these exercises I will congratulate you as citizens of Newark not only on the Library that you now own and have free access to, but more upon what you will have when the new building shall have been completed. The present cramped quarters will shortly give place to a commodious edifice, constructed with a due and proper appreciation of the needs of the library and the public, and the Board of Trustees venture to say that the exterior will be of such architectural character that our citizens will be justly proud of it.

I was called at the last moment to preside at these exercises. The place belongs to MR. EDWARD H. DURYEE, the Chairman of the Building Committee, who is detained by illness. No member of the Board of Trustees has devoted

himself so absolutely to the work in hand, and no member could be less easily dispensed with at this inauguration of the work. We all regret his illness and his consequent absence.

We now proceed to the laying of the corner stone of our new building, and I ask the REV. LOUIS SHREVE OSBORNE to pronounce the invocation.

PRAYER BY THE REVEREND LOUIS SHREVE OSBORNE,  
RECTOR OF TRINITY CHURCH.

The Lord's Prayer was said in unison, then—"Direct us, O Lord! in all our doings, (and especially in the ceremonies of this day), with thy most gracious favor, and further we wish thy continual help; that, in all our works, begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy Holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy obtain everlasting life. And O Eternal God, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; bless this work for which we are here gathered together, to the honor and glory of thy great Name. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to grant that these walls now begun, may be built up an holy temple unto thee. Direct those who design and those who superintend this building, that it may be a house worthy of thy Holy Name. Bless the architects and the contractors; and especially to thy protection, Almighty Father, do we commend the workmen that shall be employed in building this structure. Preserve them from every vain, profane and unholy thought, word and deed. May all their bones be kept, that not one of them be broken. Give thine holy Angels charge over them, to keep them in all their ways, that they dash not their foot against a stone. Mercifully be pleased to bless this stone which we are about to place for a foundation in the Name and strength of Him who is the tried and precious Corner Stone. May the foundation of this Institution rest upon thy favor. Anoint our brains and intellects, as truly as our hearts and souls, with unction from on high. Train our minds, enlighten our

understandings, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, the giver of all wisdom and knowledge, and to Thee be the glory, the praise, the thanks and the honor, through Jesus Christ, forever and forever more. Amen."

The Chairman of the Finance Committee, MR. RICHARD C. JENKINSON, then read a list of the articles which had been deposited in the box and placed in the corner stone. The box contained:

- Copy of invitation.
- Copy of programme.
- List of members of the Board of Trustees.
- List of Library employees.
- Plan of building in pamphlet form.
- Photographs taken January 21, 1899.
- All publications issued, and forms used by the Library.
  - By-Laws of the Board of Trustees.
  - Description of building now occupied by the Library:
  - Opening exercises.
  - Reports 1889-1897.
  - Finding List.
  - First supplement to the Finding List.
  - Second supplement to the Finding List.
  - Finding List of French and German books.
  - Library News.
  - Blanks of all descriptions.
- Summary of Monsignor Doane's address.
- Building chronology.
- Evening News, January 7th, containing Treasurer's and Librarian's Reports for 1898.
- Daily Advertiser, Wednesday, January 25th, 1899.
- Evening News, Wednesday, January 25th, 1899.
- New Jersey Freie Zeitung, Thursday, January 26th, 1899.
- Rankin & Kellogg's (Architects) contribution:
  - Business card.

List of Contractors.

H. Dickson's (Masonry Contractor) contribution:

Photographs.

Old coins and silver certificate for 1899.

Conditions of competition.

Specifications.

Proposals.

List of articles in box.

After MR. JENKINSON had finished reading the list, MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON, Chairman of the Reading Room Committee, in the following words, presented a trowel which he had made for this especial occasion:

*Mr. President*.—It is my privilege and great pleasure to present to the trustees through you this trowel for your use in the ceremony of laying the corner stone of this Free Public Library building. This trowel, Mr. President, though nominally made by me, is in reality the result of the labor of the power hammer forger who with his practiced skill and by the aid of his powerful machine, has forged out the blade from a bar of American steel. The trowel is then trimmed into form by the shearer who takes off the rough or irregular edges. The man who has become skilled in hardening and tempering steel then gives it the proper temper. The smith hammers out the bent portions developed by the hardening process which are caused by the uneven strains in the steel arising from the original hammering. The stone grinder grinds off the blackened, hammered surface on a large grindstone brought from the shores of Lake Huron, and the emery wheel polisher gives the blade the smoothness necessary for practical use.

Ordinarily this is all the blade requires, but for this special occasion the plater has exercised his art in coating the surface with silver and the rag wheel buffer by the aid

of his wheel made of many disks of cotton cloth and with rouge has developed the lustre of the metal. The skillful etcher has plied his art in etching the beautiful inscription. In the meantime the wood turner has turned the needed handle which is finally fitted to the blade by the handler.

Thus you see, Mr. President, that the efforts of eleven entirely different mechanical occupations are all combined in the production of this simple implement. It is fitting, then, that this tool made by mechanics of this city should be used at the laying of the corner stone of this building which is being erected at the expense of this great manufacturing city for storing the lore of the ages to which all its inhabitants, the mechanic, the laborer, the student, all the people, whether rich or poor, of whatever creed or nationality are to have free access, restricted only by the rules necessary for the preservation of the valuable volumes collected there.

President Seymour accepted the trowel, and formally laid the corner stone, saying:

*Ladies and Gentlemen*:—No duty which I have been called upon to perform as Chief Magistrate of this city gives me more pleasure than this.

Newark's Free Public Library was established in 1888, in response to a general demand from practically the whole community. One of my predecessors in office, the late JOSEPH EMMETT HAYNES, whose whole life had been devoted to the cause of education, was particularly instrumental in advancing the project. We owe to him and to others a debt of gratitude for the enterprise displayed in advancing the plan of creating this institution, providing for it a dignified home, and securing a mandatory and sufficient income for its maintenance.

From the beginning the library was popular. It speedily outgrew the limitations of the building in West Park street where it was, and still is, located, and it became apparent five years ago that more adequate accommodations should



be provided. This work has been somewhat delayed by a series of unlooked-for events and accidents, but at last the horizon has cleared and the consummation of the wishes of the projectors of this institution is at hand.

We have purchased this plot of ground whereon you stand, and here are the foundation outlines of the new building. When it is completed it will stand not only as a monument to education, but will be, we believe, a fine addition to the substantial ornamental structures of the city, and one of which the people will be proud. No site could have been selected offering to the architect more substantial advantages, but what is more to the purpose, greater conveniences in the way of accessibility to the residents of the various sections of Newark.

With feelings of profound satisfaction, which I know are shared by all the 260,000 residents of this municipality, I do hereby, as President of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library, lay and put in place the corner stone of this institution on which its walls will be reared.

The workmen have faithfully and skillfully performed their duties, and I declare the stone correctly laid.

With the Apostolic Benediction by the REV. DANIEL HALLERON, Pastor of the Halsey street Methodist Episcopal Church, the afternoon exercises were brought to a close.

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In the evening, the ceremonies were continued in the Hall of the Library Building, West Park Street.

The Hall had been appropriately decorated with American flags, and the lower corridor and stairs lined with potted palms, all of which work had been directed by a committee of the assistants in the library.

Mayor JAMES M. SEYMOUR, as President of the Board of Trustees presided.

"This afternoon," he said, "we were called to perform a very pleasant duty, the laying of the corner stone of the new building of the Public Library, and now we meet to further celebrate the occasion.

"The inception of this work of education, as you know began in 1888, and the people of Newark have shown a wide appreciation of the value of free reading and free books.

"I do not need to praise the style of architecture of the new building. That I leave to abler hands."

The Mayor explained that he was suffering from a heavy cold, which would prevent his speaking at length on a subject of deep interest to him.

He then introduced as the first speaker, RT. REV. MONSIGNOR DOANE, Rector of St Patrick's Cathedral, whose topic was "Books and Reading."

*Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board of Trustees:— Ladies and Gentlemen, or Gentlemen and Gentle-women* as I heard it put by one of the speakers at the Board of Trade dinner the other evening, though I hardly like it as well, as it violates the old rule, "*Place aux dames.*"

A few days ago the rataplan, rataplan, of the telephone resounded through the house. As there are three in the house besides myself whom the telephone calls besides the Housekeeper, when there is question of supplies, it was asked through the speaking tube who was wanted. This time it turned out to be I, and it was Mr. Hill who wanted me. He informed me that the Corner Stone of the New Public Library was to be laid forthwith, and that I must be ready in a day or so with the address I had been asked to give. Supposing that the address would be in the open air at the corner stone, I took it for granted that the traditional "few words" would suffice, but he further in-



formed me that it would not be a few minutes speech at the corner stone in the afternoon that would be expected, but an address of at least fifteen or twenty minutes in the Hall in the evening. So I was called upon to make bricks without straw. However I was encouraged by the recollection of a shorter notice than this to make a speech last summer, and I thought I might make the attempt. What I referred to occurred at Elberon, where I had gone to spend two or three days with friends. I was met at the station by my hostess who told me I must make a speech at a meeting of the Red Cross Society, to be held at once in the Casino, Ex-President Harrison presiding. What a wonderful thing the human brain is! Right away apparently without volition mine set itself to work, and three points for my speech came into my head between the Station and the Casino. The first was the wars I had seen on this side of the Atlantic. First, the Mexican War, and how the boys of that day of whom I was one, took as much interest in the victories then as the boys of our day have been taking in those of Manila and Santiago, and referred to the presiding officer as the grandson of one of the distinguished generals of that campaign. Second, the war between the North and the South, and how on the night of the battle of Bull Run I had seen the first dead of the war wrapped up in blankets lying in the hall way of Fairfax Court House, and the surgeons at work on the wounded in an adjoining room. How some things fasten themselves upon the memory, indelibly photographed upon it, and I could see then the stump of a soldier's arm, the surgeons standing around the bed upon which the operation had been performed. It was to go to the assistance of such as these in the third war that I had seen that the Red Cross Society had been formed. In conclusion I said we are longing for peace, and praying for it, and what better words could we use than those I daily recite in the office from the Roman Breviary, '*Da pacem Domine in diebus nostris, quia non est alius qui pugnet pro nobis nisi tu, Deus Noster*'—Give peace, O Lord, in our days

for there is no one who will fight for us but thou, Our God.

But to return from this digression, and to come to my subject. Let me divide what I have to say into two parts, books and reading; and books collected, libraries.

Reading is one of the most delightful and profitable of all occupations. What a marvellous thing it is that so many combinations can be formed of the twenty-six letters of which the alphabet is composed. The Century Dictionary defines 200,000 of these combinations, words in fact. The very name Alphabet takes us back to the little boys and girls in Greece centuries and centuries ago learning their letters, A for them was Alpha, B was Beta, and this gives the etymology of the word. Books, which are mental food, like bodily food, may be divided into three classes, good, wholesome and nutritious; bad, poisonous and dangerous; indifferent, recreative and gratifying. They pour forth from the press in a stream that is more a torrent than anything else, and it is simply impossible for anyone to keep pace with them. You can only do as Dr. Johnson said he did, tear the hearts out of them, or as a great reader, whom I once knew, said she did, read them diagonally. When you add to the books the magazines and newspapers how vast the amount of printed matter becomes. Only the other day the Sunday edition of the *New York Tribune* claimed to be equal to sixteen octavo volumes. Think of that for a morning's work! The principle, at least, of the '*Index expurgatorius*' has to be applied to separate the bad from the good, the unwholesome from the wholesome. The demand is said to regulate the supply, but I think the supply often creates the demand. So much or rather so little for books in general, for how much more might be said; and now for libraries in general, and the Newark Free Public Library in particular, and I must confine myself to the latter. In 1884 the Legislature of the State of New Jersey passed a wise and salutary act enabling cities and towns to establish free Public Libraries on certain lines and conditions, and authorizing the appro-

priation of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a mill on a dollar of their annual total valuation for the purpose, apparently an infinitesimal sum. However, 'many a mickle makes a muckle' as the old Scotch proverb has it, and that third of a mill in the case of the City of Newark yields to its Library the handsome revenue of about \$45,000 a year. Ten years ago, in 1889, the movement was inaugurated in Newark, and then as now our honored fellow citizen MR. CORTLANDT PARKER gave one of the addresses.

'*Hoc erat in votis*,' I may say. It was the realization of a long cherished and unhoped for wish, and the Library has made Newark, of which I have always been very fond, more attractive to me still. Before that I used to go to New York occasionally, to Scribner's, the principal importer then as now of English books, to a particular shelf in the book store where the latest arrivals were to be found, look at the title pages, perhaps read the prefaces, and then generally turn away for the prices were prohibitive to me, and like the guinea a piece pears in the Covent Garden Market in London 'rale forbidden fruit.' I subscribed to the Mercantile Library in New York, MR. A. M. PALMER the then Librarian being very kind to me, and lending me books when I was writing my own little book 'To and from the Passion Play.' His successor, MR. PEOPLES, was always most obliging when I would go there. But it was not then as it is now. Then I had to go to the books, now the books come to me, a cornucopia, a wealth of books, a realization of dreams as wild as any in the Arabian Nights, the waving of a magician's wand, the putting on of a wishing cap are all similes of things as they are now. I see the advertisements and notices of new books in the *Athenæum*, *Literature*, *Mail*, *Blackwood* and read them often before the criticisms appear. I am a '*helluo librorum*.' In Latin that word has no profane signification, but merely means a devourer of books.

Reading is my passion, my delight. To me there is nothing more delightful, when an interval comes in the work in the day time, or at night when the work of the

day is over, when the door bell stops ringing, and the telephone ceases its roar, and you are not wanted any more, when, to use Cooper's words

' You stir the fire, and close the shutters fast,  
Let fall the curtains and draw the sofa round.'

than to take up a nice fresh, clean book with the leaves all cut, and burn the midnight gas, not oil, over its pages. For this pleasure I am now largely indebted to our Public Library than which I do not believe there is one better managed in the country. Few have used it more than I. We all know how faithful the Trustees have been to their work, first in the careful selection of the excellent site, then going East and West to examine Public Libraries in other cities; how energetic and devoted the Librarian has been and how ably he has been seconded by his corps of assistants in the cataloguing room, and the distributing room, what an absolute *esprit de corps* exists among them, and how busily they work to supply the demands of the reading public. The life of a library is the librarian who first provides the books, and then distributes them. Everything turns on the system adopted and carried out, and the one here could not be improved upon. The old reports show the various sites that were under consideration of which the one chosen is '*facile princeps*.' Then came the procuring of a plan and a design. The last time I was in this room its walls were covered with competitive drawings, and the selection was anonymously made, and fell on the design submitted by MESSRS RANKIN & KELLOGG, the architects of the new building. The plan for the new Library was the fruit of patient care and consideration, and it is an admirable one. Almost all the new Public Libraries, the Boston Public Library included, are more or less modifications of the famous library of Ste. G enevi ve in Paris. That library stands on the square where what was once the Parish Church of Ste. G enevi ve, the shepherdess, and patroness of Paris stands, now alas desecrated and turned into the Pantheon, all the Gods, the Walhalla, the resting



place of him who dared to say of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, "*Ecrasez l'infame*," Crush the infamous One. The name Ste. G enevi ve remains with the library. MR. HILL some time ago gave a lecture on the Great Libraries of the World throwing representations of them upon a screen. Of them all I liked best the one which is to be our own, as the spaces are so well distributed on the fa ade, and the whole is so well balanced. It will be a case of "*Mater pulchra, filia pulchrior*," Beautiful Mother, more beautiful Child. After many vexatious delays the walls are rising apace, and new beauties are disclosing themselves every day.

The Library as its name indicates is free to all. Grolier's generous inscription on his books was "*Jo. Grolierii et amicorum*," John Grolier's and his friends. With him it was "*non sibi sed toti*," not for himself but for all. With this library the inscription might be "*Novar e et Civium*," Newark's and its Citizens.

It is a source of regret to those who have the interests of the city and county at heart that while the new Public Library, Armory and City Hospital are going up, nothing at all apparently is being done about the new City Hall and new Court House. They are not even discussed, nor even spoken of. With regard to them it is absolute lethargy and indifference, and you seem to hear the words "a little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little more folding of the hands to rest." Last summer money was thrown away in tinkering the wretched and disgraceful old Court House, it and the City Hall remaining as reproaches to the county and city. I refer to them here on the principle of Cato who closed every one of his speeches in the Roman Senate, no matter on what subject, with the phrase, "*et censeo super Carthaginem esse delendam*," and I think more-over Carthage should be destroyed. He created public opinion by this incessant reiteration, and after a while Carthage was destroyed.

To return to my subject from this digression I would say that in standing here to-night I discharge a small part

of the debt I owe to our Free Public Library and I hope I may live to see it take possession of the beautiful new building, the corner stone of which was laid by His Honor, the Mayor to-day, and which will be the centre of intellectual light and heat to Newark for many generations, a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

Monsignor Doane also referred to the three successive Mayors, MESSRS HAYNES, LEBKUECHER and SEYMOUR who had presided over the work from the start, and to the regretted absence, through illness, that afternoon from the laying of the corner stone, and that evening from the Hall, of MR. EDWARD S. DURVEE, Treasurer of the Board and Chairman of the Building Committee.

The President then presented MR. WILLIAM T. HUNT, Editor of the *Sunday Call*, who delivered the following remarks:

#### THE PUBLIC AND THE LIBRARY.

We are a curious people here in Newark, a democracy with the merits and failings of a democratic government illustrated in all our history. More inclined to virtue than most communities, we hesitate to admit it for fear those in present power might grow vain; enormously prosperous, we have been dilatory in spending money where it would be seen; charitable, each seeks rather to administer his own benevolence; and, with the mass of the people educated well above the average of even the American citizen, we have only recently chosen to publicly administer to those who seek the higher culture. The idea of one class guiding and providing for another class has been persistently discouraged. What our people have had, they got for themselves, and they still believe that the Lord chiefly helps those who do something on their own account.

I do not believe Newark would have appreciated a Carnegie's beneficence if the noble building, which we have seen to-day so well advanced toward its completion, had

been a gift to the people. This is our library, and let us thank God that it is. It comes from the people, is for the people, and let us keep it of the people. The pure democracy of the city of Newark is triumphantly exemplified by those white walls, and its splendid monument is the collection of seventy thousand volumes there to be placed within the easy grasp equally of the scholar's trained fingers and the rough hand of toil. Mr. Carnegie, the library benefactor, has written of Triumphant Democracy. Here you have it, Mr. Carnegie, in quite your own line, yet how different !

I tell you, the faith I have in Newark is the faith I have in the destiny of the American people, for the same reasons; and the assurance of my faith is that Newark can evolve from its simple life and unambitious career, such works as this public library and the parks and the schools and the churches, all of which are a part of Newark democracy and owe nothing to class or to patron.

How do we bring this about? Well, democracies are not systematic and they produce results by an evolution which is extremely puzzling to those who worship form and method. Like our navy in the recent difficulty with Spain, it was ready when the time came. Paterson—which does not often lead Newark—had secured a law, and from the people came the suggestion that perhaps Newark might like to use it. Did we leave it to our representatives to decide it for us? Not at all. That would have been too radical, it would have been against the democratic spirit; and so the acceptance of the act was submitted to the popular vote. There was an overwhelming majority in favor of imposing the library tax, and everybody knew there would be, yet you and I now know that if the vote had not been taken, the library to-day could not have been what it is. For, what our people decide at the ballot-box, stands and shall stand, unaltered, unimpeached, because the will of the people here in Newark is, in fact if not in law, irrevocable, save by the authority which grants the right.



When our trustees began their work, they recalled that Paterson had helped point the way, so they naturally plucked the best that Paterson possessed, and Librarian HILL was brought here. I do not know how thoroughly his services have been appreciated by his immediate employers, but in spite of the custom which we Newarkers use in not commending a man until he is dead, I am prepared to affirm that it has been largely due to his quick appreciation of the spirit of Newark that the library has so nobly fulfilled its mission. A librarian must not be merely a man of books; he must be a public officer, in touch with the people and guiding his institution for their benefit. This MR. HILL has been.

In ten years it has been practicable to raise the money for a new and ample library building. It has been a test of success as accurate as a proposition in geometry. Because the experiment of a free public library had been carried on for ten years with good results for those who paid the bills, it was possible to get from them the money to make a new home. The child had won his way, and deserved a better place to live. And as time goes on, there will be no lack of generosity by those who own the new building, toward their own creation, for their own sakes. Newark feels its way slowly, and hesitates at times; but it knows that here it is on firm ground.

Now, in my vaunting the glories of this democratic institution, unique in this to a degree scarcely equalled anywhere, I do not mean to warn off anybody who has something he would give the library. So far as the main purposes of a library are concerned, the people of Newark will furnish every need; but there are special features which meet special needs, and for these it might not be just to spend the people's money. Here is an opportunity for men who have something to spare; and the privilege of seeing it used, in connection with the public funds, shall not be denied to our millionaires if we can help it. But such gifts must not be for any part of the regular support

of this institution. This is the people's work, and they are to sustain it.

The relations of the public to this library are not to be judged by the circulation of the books, nor yet by the number of those who come here to consult the reference department. When the new building is completed, there will be a natural increase in these attributes, because the place will be more prominent and accessible and the attractiveness infinitely greater. The library will be better advertised, and no doubt it will be more useful on that account; but to judge of a library by the number or kind of books taken out would be just as unreasonable as to estimate the literary value of any special book by the number of its readers. You know there are certain newspapers in New York which have a big circulation, yet we newspaper men lash ourselves into a fury of indignation when we hear that journalism is to be estimated upon the basis of their success. Nor does it indicate that anything is the matter with the popular taste. I confess to periods when certain works of Anthony Trollope appeal to my palate. It is his beneficent power to amuse me so long as the book is in hand, and equally beneficent is the oblivion which overtakes all I have read of that gifted gossip's production. Mr. Emerson and Mr. Ruskin and Mr. William Morris and others whom you will find on your library shelves, have a habit of staying with you and making you work a little while they are being read, and it is not a healthy mind that likes work all the time. But the person who demands Laura Jean Libbey as a daily diet is by no means a hopeless case, and I say to you that she is better than a yellow journal, and that the association with good literature which comes from visiting the library in pursuit of Laura, is bound to work for culture in the end, because you cannot associate with good folks without taking on a little of their goodness. The preponderance of fiction in the circulation of books simply shows that the library is doing one part of its work thoroughly,—that it is reaching the young and immature mind, and thus fulfilling its edu-

cational mission. I have been glad to see this new library building in a place where the multitudes would view it often, because I know that when a man or woman or child passes those portals the mind will turn to literature and that the desire to make use of the good that lies behind those fretted walls, will inspire our people with higher thoughts. As the statue of Nathan Hale is a perennial lesson in patriotism to the thousands who tramp Broadway, so will the library building be to culture in Newark.

We are told that the benefits of a college education are not in the lesson taught in the class-room, but in the "college atmosphere," which is the atmosphere of learning, and which guides the taste and eventually teaches the boy how to make the best use of mind. Now our library is the college which has no tuition fee and which can be attended without examination. It is the atmosphere of culture it creates and expends that makes it worth all the trouble we have taken for it, and when you try to limit your estimate of its value by the number of books taken out, you only deal with one small factor. A book has done only half its duty if it has not set your mind to work, and a library would be worth very little if it did not do more than provide you with an hour's amusement or help you to an apt quotation. If the men and women who have actually taken books from a library were the only persons benefited, it would not be fair,—indeed it would be most unjust,—to tax the people for their benefit alone, and we would better go back to the old library association and be done with it. But we know that this is not all; and that the tens of thousands who do not make frequent use of the books are among the staunchest supporters of the institution, partly because they feel that they do want to use it, like the Texan's pistol, they'll want it very badly; and partly for the nobler reason that it is the only, as well as the best possible means, of that self-culture which is to be the salvation of democratic government. I need not speak of that subtle influence which comes from the mere existence of a popular institution like this. It is the cause of pride to

every Newarker, one of the things he mentions when he goes abroad, a continual encouragement of local patriotism. When the new building is completed, it will, I hope, be practicable to put the people and the books still nearer together, so that they may touch them, and be of and with them. To those who have private libraries I need not speak of the affection which is felt for these dear companions of one's quiet hours, these refuges in time of trouble, these associates who never pall. To be among them is to be surrounded by the kindest friends we have known, whose varied moods meet every need of ours whose steadfastness knows no waning. Let the public library be to the people, as near as may be, what our libraries at home are to us, only greater and better and dearer by reason of the good it does to all the people.

The inhabitants of Newark are in numbers now some 240,000, and there is a rule in newspaper offices that if a paper's circulation reaches one in ten or twelve or fifteen of the population, it is filling the field. I think the library would come somewhere near these figures, if it were possible to make estimates where figures can never be obtained. I do not mean the circulation of the books, nor the use of the reference department; but the places where and the ways in which the institution touches the life of the people outside of their tax bills. There are with us to-night men who lead in public affairs, and I would suggest to them the question whether the men and women who guide this community have done all their duty in spreading the benefits of the library among the people, and in advancing its popularity as a means of education and culture? There will be more opportunities for this sort of evangelizing when the library is suitably housed, and I hope it will be taken advantage of. The library trustees can do much, but it will eventually depend upon the people themselves whether the Free Library accomplishes as much for Newark as it should, in a given time. As to the eventual triumph I have no manner of doubt. I only want to hasten the day when the new building will



be just as inadequate for public needs as this structure is at present. I want to see Newark anxious to spend a million more for the highest of its high schools.

And it will all come. This institution is a child of the people; they created it and in their own image let it stand, owing nothing to anybody; everything to the whole body politic. I say to you trustees that the cornerstone you laid to-day was a chip from Plymouth Rock. The law under which this institution was established is a chapter of the Declaration of Independence, as much as if Thomas Jefferson had helped to write it. From the people came this government, and the continuance of this government depends upon how many of such institutions which embody the democratic idea are created and maintained with an eye to the people's good. Responsibility begets the power to exercise it with wisdom, and the people of this country have never failed, whether in library management or in war, to indicate the truth that they are equal to the management of their own affairs. 'The public and the library' was the subject of my remarks here to-night, and I have failed in my task if I have not indicated that they are in truth one and indivisible,—the public library depending alone upon the people, and the people vindicating themselves and their right to self-government by giving to institutions such as these their ample support and hearty coöperation, their love and their devotion.

The exercises of the evening were closed by Hon. Cortlandt Parker, who gave a most interesting historical paper.

#### MR. PARKER'S ADDRESS.

Nine years and three months ago I had the pleasing duty of being the orator (so I was styled) on the occasion of incorporating the first Free Public Library of the City of Newark, then about to begin its blessed work in the building it still occupies, and where this almost decade of its existence and usefulness has been spent. It is doubtless

for this reason, (there can be no other), that I am now asked to repeat myself on this happy day, when, overgrown, and lacking room, and with a usefulness greater than its most enthusiastic friends imagined to be possible, it inaugurates its own building, of dimensions suitable to its growth, believed to be probably large enough for all future growth, constructed in such manner as experience has proved it should be, located in a position in which every traveller through our city must see it, and in it see one of the great architects of Newark's greatness and prosperity, and I trust with an exterior attractive enough to justify civic pride.

I said then, (may I not repeat myself after ten years?) "A library, it is in itself joy, profit, education: in distress, consolation; in prosperity, peace. A public library dispenses these blessings to a whole community. A free public library gives them as God gives sunlight and dew and rain, 'Without money and without price,' to the just and the unjust, to the poor and to the rich, the deserving and the undeserving, to 'Whosoever will.'"

Said the great American prose writer, Channing, "God be thanked for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are the true levellers. They give to all who will faithfully use them, the society, the spiritual presence of the best and greatest of our race. No matter how poor I am, no matter though the prosperous of my own time will not enter my obscure dwelling, if the sacred writers will enter and take up their abode under my roof, if Milton will cross my threshold to sing to me of Paradise, and Shakespeare to open to me the world of imagination and the workings of the human heart, and Franklin to enrich me with his practical wisdom, I shall not pine for want of intellectual companionship, and I may become a cultivated man, though excluded from what is called the best society in the place where I live."

The opening of such a library, such a collection of worthies with whom every one could live, was the occa-

sion which was celebrated near ten years ago, to which I have alluded. It was to thank the public men who led in the new enterprise, the gentlemen of the Common Council, the Trustees of the Newark Library Association, who stood aside to give it breathing room and to aid it in achieving what was the real object of that useful corporation. It was a meeting of joyful anticipation, but of anticipation not unmixed with doubt, for it was a direct appeal to the masses and to the future, without any experience upon which to build. Would the people respond? Literature and learning were from all time the peculiar realm or property of classes in society generally called "higher" or "upper." Here was invitation to all. Would they come and drink "deep at the Pierian Spring"?

And to-night we meet to rejoice over the reply that has been given, here in our hard working city, to the question which then existed more or less in all hearts. Yes, and we come to do more. We have laid to-day the cornerstone of a building several times larger than the large one then rented and since occupied, and laid it with quite another question in our minds, the question, how long will this be large enough? Have we counted wisely upon our future?

How strange it seems to me, who have seen the rise of all public libraries, great and small, that have so far existed in Newark, to stand here, and looking backward, turn thence and look forward, forward for the young of to-day, forward to days which I shall never see, and doubt whether the lordly structure we have begun will not, ere very long, be too small. Yet this is the testimony of the past. The building we have had has been found too small in ten years. Progress seems to prove, and conservatism is compelled to admit, that taking lessons from the past, there will be call in time for greater things than those he now expects.

Let me look backward a moment on the history of libraries in Newark. Coming here in youth, the first search of myself and three college classmates was for a library and



school for debate. After a while we found it, and in the schoolroom of a great pedagogue of that day, Nathan Hedges, champion of Solomon's adage, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son," a worthy man though, and good, true and capable, among the best of his fellow citizens; we three and two more, all long ago passed away, except myself, renewed the Sessions of the Newark Young Men's Society, then almost absolutely discontinued, an association which had been prosperous and which had a decently well chosen, small library. In that upper room, by the light of two or three homemade dipped candles, we began weekly discussions of the great public questions usual to such distinguished bodies, mingling with our exercises, composition likewise, and making use to a limited degree of this only Newark Public Library. Shall I not name the original members of this Society? Joseph P. Bradley, Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, Edward Cook, Lewis C. Grover, William F. Day and myself, comprised our first quorum. But soon others came, some, members of the gasping association, others, new to its capacities. Dr. Samuel H. Pennington, still living and beloved; Dr. Abraham Coles, Dr. Stephen Congar, from whose pen the charter of Newark largely came; Edward W. Whelpley, afterwards Chief Justice; Martin Ryerson, known to all lawyers as one of the lights of the Jersey Bar and Bench; Newton Congar, Secretary of the State of New Jersey, and the political chieftain of the Republican party before the Civil War, through it, Consul abroad, and after that, through and after the governorship of Marcus L. Ward; a brother of his, a quiet student, Joseph Congar, and Silas Merchant, James Hague, William E. Layton, Theodore P. Howell, James B. Hay, and many others (for the society for a while grew to be large and its meeting publicly frequented), useful and influential in their generation. The Society was a great educator, and its books aided its work. Besides its collection, which at last, alas, went under the hammer, there was no public library in the city, unless we

so call the circulating library of Benjamin Olds, one of the two book-sellers then doing business here.

Years after, there came back to Newark a man born in Broad street near Central avenue, but who had in very early youth gone with his father and family away, and settled in Perth Amboy, WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD. In 1848, one hundred and eighty years after the settlement of Newark, this gentleman, with a New Yorker who resided here, the Rev. Samuel I. Prime, better known through his nom-de-plume as "Irenæus" Prime, set to work to establish a Public City Library. This they did by subscription. They obtained a charter and sold its stock. Its capital was fixed at \$50,000. It was a public library only so far as so made by the provision, "that no State, county, city, township or other public assessments, taxes or charges whatsoever, shall at any time be levied or imposed upon the said association or upon the stocks and estates which may become vested in them under this act, other than their lands and tenements." It is rather a singular enactment, considering that the only property they could lawfully hold was books, and real estate in which to keep them. The date of this act was February 19, 1847. It has a special preamble stating that the object of the association was "to establish a library with all proper conveniences and appurtenances, and the erection of a suitable edifice for its accommodation, with a view to advance the interest of learning generally, and to instruct and better educate the youth of Newark in science, literature and the arts." It will thus be seen that it was intended to be an adjunct to public education.

The terms under which this library circulated its books were low and liberal, both to stockholders and non-stockholders, who were required to pay for the use of the books borrowed, but not at a very high figure. And its usefulness was great. In 1849 it had 1900 books. In 1888 their number was 28,264. In 1851 some 20,000 books were annually taken out by readers. In 1881, thirty years after, 33,000.

This library of 1847 was as free as it could then be made. Taxpayers then would have ridiculed the suggestion that the public should pay for a library. Undoubtedly, however, the taste for reading which the use of the books of this association increased, and extended, contributed to producing the vote by which the Free Public Library of today, the People's Library, it should be called, was inaugurated. The founders of the library of 1847-8 were wise men, as well as benevolent. They knew that what they did would lead to "the better education of the youth of Newark in science, literature and the arts," although it may be doubted if any of its founders ever dreamed of such success in their aims, as was begun in the establishment of the Free Public Library, in the city they loved.

That idea did not originate with them, nor in the City of Newark. That honor is due to a man then three years a Counsellor at Law, a member of the Legislature from Paterson, now a highly esteemed, eloquent and influential Rector of an Episcopal Church in Detroit, Michigan, and Doctor of Divinity, William Prall. It was in the legislative session of 1884 that he introduced and proposed the passage of "An act to authorize the establishment of Free Public Libraries in the cities of this State." The scheme of the act seems an almost inspiration. It is substantially this: no city is compelled to do it. But, if at an election of municipal officers, a majority of all ballots cast shall be "for the adoption for this city of the provisions of the act," it shall become the duty of the appropriate board of said city, annually thereafter, to appropriate and raise by tax, a sum equal to one-third of a mill on every dollar of assessable property returned by the city assessors, which sum shall be used for no other purpose than that of a Free Public Library.

To the credit of our city, next, I believe after Paterson, in 1889, this act was carried out and the Free Public Library established. Its success has been wonderful. In 1889, from its opening to December 31, being but thirty-

four days the total number of volumes delivered for home use was 31,823,

December 1889 to December 1890 . . . . .	330,810,
December 1890 to December 1891 . . . . .	306,066,
December 1891 to December 1892 . . . . .	272,347,
December 1892 to December 1893 . . . . .	268,320,
December 1893 to December 1894 . . . . .	321,533,
December 1894 to December 1895 . . . . .	332,078,
December 1895 to December 1896 . . . . .	336,409,
December 1896 to December 1897 . . . . .	364,728,
December 1897 to December 1898 . . . . .	357,504.

The number of persons using the Reference Department:

December 1890 to December 1891 was . . . . .	12,714,
December 1891 to December 1892, was . . . . .	14,072,
December 1892 to December 1893, was . . . . .	15,348,
December 1893 to December 1894, was . . . . .	19,146,
December 1894 to December 1895, was . . . . .	20,926,
December 1895 to December 1896, was . . . . .	19,357,
December 1896 to December 1897, was . . . . .	16,826,
December 1897 to December 1898, was . . . . .	17,313.

It was early resolved by the library authorities to connect it with the public schools. This it did, almost immediately on its organization, by issuing "Teacher" cards, authorizing public school teachers to take books, for use in school or homes.

December 1889 to December 1890, the number of volumes delivered upon such cards was 1,313.

December 1890 to December 1891 . . . . .	1,495,
December 1891 to December 1892 . . . . .	1,668,
December 1892 to December 1893 . . . . .	2,394,
December 1893 to December 1894 . . . . .	2,923,
December 1894 to December 1895 . . . . .	3,194,
December 1895 to December 1896 . . . . .	2,926,
December 1896 to December 1897 . . . . .	4,587,
December 1897 to December 1898 . . . . .	4,893.

These figures show how free and extensive and beneficial, as a part of the system of public schools, the Free Public Library has been. But they are far from exhibiting its whole usefulness in this regard.

The reports of the institution show that it is directly connected with the public school teachers, and at times pupils as well are invited there and given unusual liberty to examine the contents of the shelves. And many pupils have learned their use in preparation for their duties, especially those in the High School.

But in 1891, and since, the managers of the Institution have invited and caused the establishment in connection with it, of what is termed "University Extension." This, says a report, is a term applied to a system of teaching by means of lectures and class-work held in various localities. The lectures are delivered and the class-work conducted by eminent men, usually professors in the leading Universities. In a nutshell, it is carrying university education to those who cannot afford the time and money to attend college. The local society, once organized, decides upon the subject or subjects taken up; for instance one class is formed for the study of astronomy, a second for that of electricity, and a third for that of American history. The lecturer delivers a course of twelve lectures, each followed by a conference hour for study and for additional explanation.

In December 1892, a professor of Rutgers College, Prof. Lewis Bevier, Jr., lectured at the Library on this scheme of extending the advantages of university education. A few weeks later a society for its adoption was organized. The first season's work consisted of a course of twelve lectures on architecture by the late Prof. Doolittle, of New Brunswick, delivered in the Library Hall. His work was interrupted by his death, and three Professors of Columbia College, Ware, Hamlin and Snelling, completed the course. Lectures on electricity by Dr. F. C. VanDyck, on English Literature by Dr. A. V. Williams Jackson, on Greek and Roman Art by Dr. E. S. Shumway each course consisting of twelve lectures, followed.

"Hard Times" have somewhat interfered with the success of this plan of action. It is still, however, in existence, and its continuance is contemplated.



I dwell upon it as the exhibition of a desire on the part of the managers of the Library Institution to make it a valuable accession to public school education in Newark.

The circulation of books, or even of good books is not the main value of a Public Free Library. It is the promotion of their use. Public taste, everywhere, is for books of amusement rather than more profitable works. Too large a proportion of books of fiction are used by the frequenters of this institution. The later reports show this proportion decreasing. But if the managers strive to exclude any but good novels from their shelves, they do their work well; a taste for reading, fed by good novels, soon leads to the use of stronger mental aliment.

The reading rooms, one for each sex, of which I have not yet spoken, illustrate strongly the value of the library to the community. As many as one hundred persons at one time can, not infrequently, be found there. They have access to some five hundred periodicals, among them, or besides them, to many daily journals.

The Library contains sixty-five thousand six hundred and ninety-three volumes. In 1889 it had twelve thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight—increase in ten years fifty-two thousand seven hundred and sixty-five—during the past year six thousand six hundred and seventy-eight volumes have been added.

How shall I close this resumé of the great work being performed among us by this noble Institution? How better than by first recalling again to the minds of this audience and of the people the names of those to whom we are indebted for the blessings which have come to us from them?—the blessing of the Newark Library Association, whose work would now seem completely finished, since now they are to cease to have even an habitation, and the later blessing, made possible by the originators of the old Library, but conceived by one man, incalculably increased already and to increase hereafter, with almost geometrical proportion, that of the People's Free Library, whose second step in advance we celebrate to-day. The blessing

of Newark upon WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD and SAMUEL I. PRIME, the leaders in the establishment of Newark's first Public Library. Let every Newarker remember them with gratitude. And one other suggestion here. In the possession of the Newark Library Association are the portraits of these two city benefactors, perhaps of some of their companions. Let the City of Newark obtain from it these portraits and hang them on the walls of the new institution, to continue there, that generations to come may call to mind the gratitude they owe them.

And to DR. PRALL let the thanks of all interested in the Free Library be awarded and adequately conveyed by the managers of this Institution, or the Common Council of the City, or both; and if possible let his portrait be obtained and placed beside those of the eminent citizens of Newark who preceded him in the same walk. He has benefitted his state, perhaps other states, as well as this city, Paterson, Jersey City, Elizabeth, Perth Amboy and other cities in New Jersey, who have adopted and carried out his scheme. He well deserves grateful remembrance and honor. I have endeavored to frame some words in which to close this address, but I can find none to do so, nor any way equal to repeating, for the second time though it be, the language by which the good old library, to which we are now to say good-bye, was ushered into public notice fifty years ago, and by reciting anew the noble poem which closed the exercises of that evening—

Said the Secretary of the Association then :

“We open this hall to the inhabitants of the city of Newark, as a place where all, of every class and condition, may increase their intellectual stores, by participating in the treasures of the learned and the wise, which from time to time will be brought before them: where literature, in all its varied forms, will ever we trust, wear the most engaging features, and where young and old may find constantly recurring inducements to a more thorough cultivation of the mental powers with which they are endowed.



“ We open it to our artisans and our professional men, as a place where the wonders of nature and of art, the mysteries and revelations of science, the practical bearing of important discoveries, and the value of novel inventions, may in turn be presented for their admiration, their instruction, or their investigation.

“ We open it to all as a place of rational entertainment; believing that ‘ to everything there is a season.’ and that the occasional relaxation from mental and bodily toil which man requires, will be here improved to highly useful and ennobling purposes; that music and poetry, painting and sculpture, will here combine to calm the passions, exalt the affections, refine the taste and enliven the imagination.

“ We open it in the hope and confident belief that notwithstanding the varied uses for which it is designed, nothing will ever be heard or witnessed within its walls which will not tend to inculcate a high-toned morality, and to uphold the honor and majesty of that Being of whom it is said, ‘ unless He build the house, they labor in vain who build it.’ Worse than useless would prove our undertaking if aught should ever transpire here to affect injuriously the moral or religious condition of the community. It is, therefore, in strict accordance with the spirit of the resolution by which the Board of Directors accepted the donation of a valuable Bible as the *foundation* of the library, so that we shall strive to make this hall subservient to the moral as well as to the intellectual improvement of all frequenting it.

“ We welcome you, therefore, to a place which we hope will ever be to you attractive, as well from the healthful influence it will exercise, as from the new sources of enjoyment and instruction it may offer.”

Such were the words of welcome from this worthy institution, and they were followed by an ode, from the pen of Mrs. W. B. Kinney,\* mother of a living American poet, of whom the nation is proud.

\* Died.

" Spirit of living Truth,  
     Fresh in immortal youth,  
     Yet aged as Eternity !  
 Come at the fervid calls  
     Of hearts that, ever seeking after thee,  
     To thy great purpose dedicate these walls,  
 Come, and spread here thy broad and beaming wings,  
 Where, in thy name, the Muse her humble tribute brings.

" Spirit of Art, divine ;  
     This edifice shall be a shrine  
     Where thy true worshippers may kneel.  
 Standing sublime in Learning's cause,  
 The impress of thy mighty laws  
     Its form majestic will reveal,  
 While the same glorious Sun shall make it bright,  
 Or the same Moon shall gild it with her light,  
 As have for ages shed their beams upon.

" The hallowed ruins of the Parthenon ;  
     And Wisdom's goddess here shall own  
     All that approach to seek her lore,  
     No less, than where was raised the throne  
     Which first her votaries knelt before.

" Knowledge shall here unfold  
     Her ' treasures new and old,'  
     Science lay open her mysterious heart,  
 That searching eyes its inmost depths may see ;  
     And Helicon's pure fount its streams impart  
 To all who thirst for living poesy.  
     These opening gates will languages unlock,  
     And free shall flow old Homer's tide of song,  
     As when, in ancient days, from Horeb's rock,  
     Gushed limpid waters for the eager throng.

" Britannia's bards shall dwell beneath this classic dome  
     And visit—Fancy's dreams to tell—  
     The laborer's humble home ;  
     And History's undying page  
     Here the eventful past shall state ;  
     Or our brief present to a future age  
     Perchance relate.  
     Toils in these cheering walls forgot,  
     The weary soul refreshed shall be,

And riches wait to bless the lot  
 Of patient Industry.  
 Wealth, such as shaping intellect hath wrought  
 From the imperishable mines of Thought.

“Spirit of Eloquence, whose voice  
 Made Academic groves rejoice  
 In Plato’s days of old,  
 We dedicate to *thee* this hall;  
 Here, ever at thy trumpet call  
 May truth again grow bold,  
 And startle error from his secret hold.

“Spirit of Science, here inspect  
 The mysteries of Philosophy;  
 Or with thy telescope direct  
 To starry wonders in the sky.  
 Spirit of Music, here awake,  
 This dome with airs melodious fill,  
 And every listening spirit make  
 With rapture thrill.

“Spirit of pure Religion, deign  
 Within this temple to abide;  
 For Art and Science build in vain  
 Unless *thou* o’er their work preside.  
 The crumbling touch of time  
 Lays low the edifice sublime;  
 But if thy footprints there are found,  
 The spot whereon it stood “is holy ground,”  
 And every tribute offered there to *thee*  
 The wreck of nature shall survive,  
 And in the hearts of God and Angels live  
 Among the records of Eternity.’”

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